information provided by the newspaper regarding the number of the file and its contents;

(b) whether the contents of the said news item are true and file has since been traced; and

(c) whether Government would be careful in pushing various FIRs in the Court without proper proof and file support when no tangible outcome is forth-coming?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. UPENDRA): (a) Indian Express of May 11, 1990 had published a news-item about the missing file no. AV. 18018/14/84-AC based on FIR dated 29-3-90 filed by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI).

(b) It has not been possible to trace the file No. AV. 18018/14/84-AC so far despite all efforts.

(c) Whereas efforts are still being made to locate the file bearing No. AV'8018/14/84-AC, the investigation of the case is not entirely dependent on the availability of this file. FIRs in CBI are registered after careful consideration of allegations that are referred to the organisation or are collected through their own source, and appreciation of evidence.

Restricting the use of fluoride in toothpaste

1368. SHRI N.E. BALARAM:

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have issued a notification restricting the fluoride content in toothpaste to 1000 parts per million with a cautionary note that children below seven years should not be allowed to use fluoride toothpaste;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) what steps are being taken against manufacturers of toothpaste having higher fluoride content and to withdraw such products from the market?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI RASHEED MASOOD): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A draft amendment to the Drugs & Cosmetics Rules giving specific provisions relating to toothpastes containing fluoride has been published for comments in the Gazette vide GSR No. 410(E) dated the 29th March, 1990. The details are as follows:—

(i) Fluoride content in toothpastes shall not be more than 1000 ppm and the content of fluoride in terms of ppm shall be mentioned on the tube and carton.

(ii) Every tube and carton of the tooth-paste shall bear the following cautionary note—

Caution:— Children below 7 years should not be allowed to use fluoride toothpastes.

(iii) Date of expiry should be mentioned on the tube and carton.

(c) the comments received will be examined before finalizing the amendment and the manufacturers of toothpastes having higher fluoride contents will be required to reduce the fluoride contents to the prescribed permissible limit, once the amen-

ded rule comes into force from the date of its publication in the Gazette.

Procurement of uninfected blood

1369. SHRI N. E. BALARAM: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a news-item captioned "Baby gets AIDS from infected blood" appearing in the "Indian Express" of the 24th July, 1990;

(b) if so, what steps are being taken to ensure that the blood procured from the blood banks are not infected; and

(c) whether any action was taken against this particular blood bank?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI RASHEED MASOOD): (a) The Government has seen the news-item captioned 'Baby gets AIDS from infected blood' appeared in the Indian Express dated 24-07-1990.

(b) According to the report of western blot test, the baby was not found positive for HIV Antibodies.

However, to ensure safety in blood transfusion services, a zonalised system of blood testing for screening blood for HIV antibodies has been implemented in four metropolitan cities and similar arrangements are being extended to major cities, in a phased manner.

(c) Does not arise.

Fall in the production of some important drugs

1370. SHRI N. E. BALARAM: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to

(a) whether it is a fact that some of the drug manufacturers have stopped production of certain life saving drugs like Dapsone, Iouprofen; etc;

(b) if so, whether this is being done in order to pressurise Government to increase the prices of such drugs; and

(c) if so, what are the details the drugs of which the production has stopped and what is Governments reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI M.S. GURUPADASWAMY): (a) to (c) Government have no information in this regard.

Payment of interim relief to Bhopal gas tragedy victims

1371. SHRI N. E. BALARAM:

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Central Government had transferred Rs. 360/- crores to Madhya Pradesh Government to disburse the interim relief of Rs. 200/- per month to each of the victims of Bhopal gas tragedy;

(b) if so, whether it is a fact that the victims have not got the money so far; and

(c) if so, what steps are being taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI M. S. GURUPADASWAMY): (a) Government have sanctioned disbursement of an amount of Rs. 360/- crores for making payment of interim relief to all persons residing